

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ARA-16 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

IO-13 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 DRC-01 /153 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2057

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11142

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR CI PFOR

SUBJ: SOVIETS ADOPT CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE ON CHILE

REF: MOSCOW 11050

1. SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED PUBLICLY TO REFRAIN FROM
IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES OF U.S. COMPLICITY IN COUP, AND WE
WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THIS CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE DID NOT CONTINUE.
SOVIET OFFICIALS THUS FAR HAVE NOT PRIVATELY RAISED CHILEAN
EVENTS WITH US EVEN CONVERSATIONALLY, DESPITE OPPORTUNITIES
TO DO SO.

2. SOVIET PRESS HAS REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CHILEAN
JUNTA THAT IT WISHES TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT CUBA. SOVIETS REALIZE THAT THEIR
DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN SANTIAGO IS PRECARIOUS, AND WE BELIEVE
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THEY WILL AVOID ACTIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO DIPLOMATIC

RUPTURE, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL HAVE TO KEEP UP THEIR LEFTIST CREDENTIALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF PUBLIC INDIGNATION.

3. THIS DUAL APPROACH IS EVIDENT IN CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTERNOON OF SEP 13. WHILE IT CONDEMNS

COUP AND EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH CHILEAN LEFT, IT ATTRIBUTES EVENTS TO DOMESTIC REACTIONARIES AND ALLUDES ONLY IN PASSING TO "SUPPORT OF EXTERNAL IMPERIALISTIC FORCES." IT CONTAINS NOT THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF ACTION ON PART OF USSR OR SOCIALIST CAMP.

4. SOVIETS MAY, HOWEVER, FEEL COMPELLED TO BACK CUBAN CALL

FOR SC MEETING ON CHILE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF CASTRO'S FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE IN DEFENDING SOVIET POSITION AT ALGIERS. NEVERTHELESS WE WOULD EXPECT SOVIETS TO HAVE PRIVATE RESERVA-

TIONS ABOUT BRINGING SUCH A BASICALLY DOMESTIC ISSUE INTO SC.

5. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE SOVIETS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT RESTRAINT SERVES THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN CHILE AS WELL AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH SUMMIT UNDERSTANDING TO SEEK TO PREVENT THIRD-COUNTRY PROBLEMS FROM POISONING U.S. SOVIET RELATIONS.
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